

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S13391–S13464

Measures Introduced: Seventeen bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2229–2245, and S. Res. 356. **Pages S13437–38**

Measures Reported:

S. 2242, to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to establish supplemental agricultural disaster assistance and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for conservation and alternative energy sources and to provide tax relief for farmers. (S. Rept. No. 110–206)

S. Res. 346, expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the devastating thunderstorms that caused severe flooding during August 2007 in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, with an amendment and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 347, designating May 2008 as “National Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Month”.

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Measures Passed:

Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act: Senate passed H.R. 3678, to amend the Internet Tax Freedom Act to extend the moratorium on certain taxes relating to the Internet and to electronic commerce, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S13429–30**

Reid (for Sununu) Amendment No. 3466, to amend the Internet Tax Freedom Act to extend the moratorium on certain taxes relating to the Internet and to electronic commerce. **Pages S13429–30**

Measures Considered:

Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act: Senate continued consideration of S. 294, to reauthorize Amtrak, agreeing to the committee amendments, which will be considered as original text for purpose of further amendment, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S13405–29, S13430**

Adopted:

Lautenberg (for Murray) Modified Amendment No. 3457, to require the development of a strategic plan to facilitate expanded cross-border passenger rail service on the Amtrak Cascades route during the 2010 Olympic Games. **Page S13427**

Lautenberg (for Murray) Modified Amendment No. 3459, to require a report by the Inspector Gen-

eral of the Department of Transportation on service delays on the Coast Starlight and Amtrak Cascades routes. **Page S13427**

Lott (for DeMint) Amendment No. 3460, to ensure that capital investment grants authorized under section 24402 of title 49, United States Code, may be used for passenger rail infrastructure. **Page S13427**

Lott (for DeMint) Amendment No. 3461, to direct the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study that compares passenger rail systems in certain developed countries. **Page S13427**

Rejected:

By 28 yeas to 66 nays (Vote No. 395), Sununu Amendment No. 3453, to prohibit Federal subsidies in excess of specified amounts on any Amtrak train route. **Pages S13405–12**

By 27 yeas to 64 nays (Vote No. 396), Sununu Modified Amendment No. 3456, to remove the limitation on the number of Amtrak routes available for competitive bid. **Pages S13412–13, S13417, S13426**

Withdrawn:

Sununu Amendment No. 3452, to amend the Internet Tax Freedom Act to make permanent the moratorium on certain taxes relating to the Internet and to electronic commerce. **Pages S13405, S13417–19, S13430**

Pending:

Lautenberg (for Carper) Amendment No. 3454 (to Amendment No. 3452), of a perfecting nature. **Pages S13405, S13412**

Allard Amendment No. 3455, to strike the provisions repealing Amtrak’s self-sufficiency requirements. **Pages S13413–15**

During consideration of this measure, Senate also took the following action:

Motion to invoke cloture on Sununu Amendment No. 3452 (listed above), was withdrawn. **Page S13430**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Friday, October 26, 2007. **Page S13464**

Messages from the House:

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Measures Referred:

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Measures Placed on the Calendar:

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Measures Read the First Time:

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Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S13438–39

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**Pages S13439–59****Additional Statements:****Pages S13435–36****Amendments Submitted:****Pages S13459–63****Notices of Hearings/Meetings:****Page S13463****Authorities for Committees to Meet:****Page S13464****Privileges of the Floor:****Page S13464**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today.
(Total—396) **Pages S13412, S13426**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:45 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, October 26, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S13464.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FARM BILL

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported the 2007 Farm Bill.

TOY INDUSTRY SWEATSHOPS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism concluded a hearing to examine sweatshop conditions in the toy industry in China, including S. 367, to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to prohibit the import, export, and sale of goods made with sweatshop labor, after receiving testimony from Senator Sanders; Charles Kernaghan, National Labor Committee, and Peter Eio, ICTI CARE Foundation, both of New York, New York; and Harry Wu, Laogai Research Foundation, and Bama Athreya, International Labor Rights Forum, both of Washington, D.C.

FEDERAL DRUNK DRIVING PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security, and Water Quality concluded an oversight hearing to examine the effectiveness of federal drunk driving prevention programs, after receiving testimony from Vice Admiral Thomas J. Barrett, USCG (Ret.), Deputy Secretary, Mark V. Rosenker, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, and Calvin L. Scovel III, Inspector General, all of the Department of Transportation; John Wheeler, New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Santa Fe; Judge Michael R. Fields, Harris County Criminal Court of

Law #14, Houston, Texas; and Glynn R. Birch, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Irving, Texas.

SMALL BUSINESS AND HEALTH INSURANCE

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine small business health insurance, focusing on ways to increase coverage, after receiving testimony from Joel Ario, Pennsylvania Insurance Department, Harrisburg, on behalf of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners; Alden J. Bianchi, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C., Boston, Massachusetts; Linda J. Blumberg, Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Monty Newman, National Association of Realtors (NAR), Hobbs, New Mexico.

SINGLE AUDITS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security concluded a hearing to examine implementation of the Single Audit Act (Public Law 98–502), focusing on a recent study on the potential impacts that implementing certain recommendations could have to help ensure that federal funds are safeguarded, after receiving testimony from Daniel I. Werfel, Acting Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget; Jeanette M. Franzel, Director, Financial Management and Assurance, Government Accountability Office; Hugh M. Monaghan, Director, National Single Audit Sampling Project, and Director, Non-Federal Audit, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Education; and Mary M. Foelster, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following:

S. Res. 347, designating May 2008 as “National Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Month”; and

S. Res. 346, expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the devastating thunderstorms that caused severe flooding during August 2007 in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, with an amendment.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.